Percentage of Women in Indian Army

†*160. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of women in Indian Army;

(b) the specific steps being taken by Government to increase number of women in the Army; and

(c) the percentage of women targeted by Govenrment in the army with percentage of officers and soldiers therein?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (*C)* The percentage of women officers in the Army is 2.56% of the total strength at present.

Until 1991, women were not eligible for recruitment to the Army. Following Government approval, induction of women officers in select Branches in the Army commenced in 1992 on an experimental basis, with an initial tenure of 5 years service. The tensure was subsequently increased to 10 years of service in 1997. Women are not recruited to the Army in the Personnel Below Officer Ranks (PBOR).

Women officers are encouraged to join the select branches of the Army. Recently, Government have issued orders extending the tenure of women officers to 14 years. Earlier women officers used to get only one promotion, as Captain after 5 years of reckonable service during a total tenure of 10 years of service. With the extended tenure, they will now get three promotions, viz., to the rank of Captain, Major and Lt. Colonel after 2,6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively.

Intake of women officers in Army is gradually improving. The annual intake position since 2001 is given below:

Year	No. of Vacancies	Number Joined
2001	94	86
2002	110	118
2003	135	134
2004	150	151
2005	150	141

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.